WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 SEPTEMBER 1986

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
FORMER BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE MISSED

The Washtenaw County Historical Society regretfully says goodbye this year to five Board members whose presence will be greatly missed.

Esther Warzynski, Vice President 1984-1986, is responsible for the extra-ordinarily fine programs which last year boosted meeting attendance over the one hundred mark. Esther also organized two annual trips—to Fort Malden, Ontario, and to Monroe, Michigan—for "sell-out" busloads. Jim Parker invested many long hours in inventorying our collection of books, making possible an upcoming sale of material deemed unrelated to the Society's collecting policy (watch the *Impressions* for notice of the sale later this year). Jim chaired the Long-Range Planning Committee last year, helping focus the Society's attention on its stated objectives.

Kathy Sutton cheerfully cochaired Refreshments, a committee which is considerable more work than glory, and a well-fed membership will recall fine eating, particularly at the Christmas party and the annual meeting in May. Gary Kuehnle brought to his job of Curator an expertise the Society rarely experiences; his enthusiasm for the treasures in our collections will be missed. Cal Foster chaired the Art Fair Parking Committee in 1985, the year of our largest cash "take" ever.

To all these Board members, our sincere gratitude and fondest good wishes for the future. We hope to see you at programs for many years to come. *—Galen R. Wilson*

GALEN WILSON RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT; NEW COUNTY HISTORY TARGETED FOR FALL 1987 PUBLICATION

Galen R. Wilson was re-elected president of WCHS and Robert E. Miller, a retired engineer, was elected treasurer.

Vice-president Esther Warzynski, recording-secretary Lucille Fisher and corresponding secretary Lucy Kooperman were re-elected.

Pauline Walters, Nancy Schuon, William Wallach and Arthur French were named to three-year terms on the board. Marguerite Harms will fill a term expiring in June 1987 left vacant by resignation of Cal Foster.

President Wilson appointed six directors-at-large to two-year terms. They are Douglas Crary, John C. Dann, Coleman Jewett, David Pollock, Peter Rocco and Dalys Vogel.

Bylaws additions to Article VII, officers and directors, providing for resignation and removal from office, were approved.

As of April 30, the Society had total assets of $63,677.75 of which $44,586.91 was in the museum fund and $19,160.63 in the operating fund.

Income totaled $9,007.83 and expenses $10,471.54 or $1,463.71 over income, chiefly because of the unsuccessful calendar sale.

The Washtenaw County history book approved in 1984 is targeted for fall 1987 publication. Author Ruth Bordin of Ann Arbor, hired by Windsor Publications of California, is at work on it.

The slate was presented by Kathy Sutton for the nominating committee composed of Gary Kuehnle, Patricia Austin, Wilson, and herself.

The unsung but efficient refreshments committee outdid themselves with catered trays of food and punch for the annual meeting. Thanks are due Louisa Pieper and Mrs. Sutton, co-chairmen for their efforts throughout last year.

DORIS MILLIMAN NEW YPSI CITY HISTORIAN

Doris Milliman, a retired librarian and former director of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, has been appointed Ypsilanti City Historian to succeed the late Foster Fletcher.

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, she has an M.A. from the University of Michigan. She retired from Dearborn Public Schools, having previously been librarian in the Henry Ford Schools at Greenfield Village.

She served 11 years on the Ypsilanti City Council in the 1950s, the first woman elected. A member of the museum board since 1971, she is active in DAR and other organizations.

SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING FEATURES AUTOS, AUTOS AND MORE RARE AUTOS

A double dip of auto history is in store for WCHS's first fall audience at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 14.

Leslie R. Henry, retired transportation curator of Henry Ford Museum, will show and comment on a film he helped make, "The Changing Architecture of the Automobile." He is past president of the Antique Auto Club of America.

It will take place at Tom Monaghan's Car Barn near Ann Arbor Airport where about 53 rare vintage vehicles are on display.

To get to the car barn take State Street to Ellsworth Road, west on Ellsworth to Plaza Drive and right on Plaza to 3815.

The Monaghan collection includes 1929 and 1934 Dusenbergs which cost a million dollars each and the only known 1942 Buick Roadmaster as well as the Volkswagon "bug" with which he first delivered pizzas.

The vehicles which range from 1900 to the 1970s also include steam fire trucks, a Fordson tractor and a restored stage coach.

TRUNK, CLOTHES GIVEN

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Max Collins for a trunk full of fine late 19th and early 20th century clothing.

ART FAIR PARKING NETS $1,241 FOR WCHS

WCHS gained $1,241 thanks to Comerica Bank at Washington and Fifth Avenue and a crew of volunteers who parked cars there after hours during the Art Fair in July.

Helpers were William Burmeister, Richard Cross, Elsie Dyke, Joan and Roger Ellsworth, Lucille and Bob Fisher, Cal Foster, Hugh Gaston, Marguerite Harms, Dan and Mary Lirones, Monica Pastorino, Pete Rocco, and Nancy Schuon.

Also helping were Grace Shackman, Ingrid Sheldon, Dean Smith, Jay Snyder, Kathy Sutton, Pauline Walters, Galen Wilson, and Alice and Lawrence Ziegler.

TOO MANY BRITISH

FIRST URBAN FLIGHT FROM DETROIT IN 1780s

Urban flight from Detroit in the 1780s? Sounds strange, doesn't it, when the map of Michigan was nearly blank.

Yet the founding of Frenchtown (now Monroe, Michigan) is an early example of urban flight according to Dennis Au, assistant director of the Monroe Historical Museum.

Au guided the Washtenaw County Historical Society tour of the city, the 1813 battlefield and museum, aided at the museum by volunteer docent, Wilma Price.

The group then toured and lunched at Norman Towers Retirement Home, saw the 1789 Navarre-Anderson trading post and country store and continued home over North Custer Road which becomes Milan Plank Road.

"The first Europeans to come to this region were the French who came to Detroit in 1701. Many of them stayed after the British conquest until the 1780s.

"But then there was an influx of British merchants in Detroit. The French didn't like all those English people there and they didn't want their daughters marrying them," he said. "They wanted to maintain a French community so they settled along the River Raisin.

"We call it the first case of urban flight from Detroit when the neighborhood changed."

"These people were heavily involved in the fur trade. They went out to Indian villages with manufactured goods they had picked up in Montreal and purchased furs—beaver, otter, muskrat, lynx, bear and buffalo which they took to Montreal in canoes up to 40 feet long.

"The canoes often went in brigades. When they crossed the lake they skirted the shore as canoes can be swamped rather easily."

Later the tour group saw the home and trading post of one of the French pioneers, Francois Marie Navarre Deutrau, built in 1789. It was found and restored by the museum. The only older existing building in the state is the military barracks on Mackinac Island.

"The pioneer's given name was "Francois," family name "Navarre" and "Deutrau" a nickname.

"King Louis XIV was king of France and of Navarre. The Navarres are

Michigan Historical Collections

CUSTER STATUE, MONROE

President Taft and Mrs. Custer were on hand for the unveiling in Monroe in 1910. 1932 photo.

blood relation to the Bourbons and were a family of some importance in Detroit. One of the sons of the royal notary in Detroit built the now restored log building and remained in it until 1802.

The museum features Monroe County, including the Battle of the River Raisin, the bloodiest battle on Michigan soil, and George Armstrong Custer, a hometown boy who distinguished himself in the Civil War before perishing at the Little Big Horn.

"Indians came to the area about 14,000 years ago," Au said. "The exhibit shows the cultural progression from when they were hunting mammoths and mastodons in the paleolithic era to the archaic era when they were simply hunting and gathering in a climate much like the present.

As a boy growing up in Monroe county, Au tramped his grandpa's fields looking for Indian artifacts. Monroe County has about 700 registered archeological sites, the highest number in southeast Michigan, he said.

"However, by the time the Europeans came here, this area was rather abandoned and ironically, the French brought the Indians with them—the Wyandotte, Potawotomie and Miami.

"We think the tribes here in the 1500s belonged to the Iroquoian language group. They were pushed out by a culture called the Mississippian. The latter may well have become the Huron or Tintinati which translates into 'Tobacco Huron.' "

A diorama showed Indian life in a village about the time the French reintroduced Indians. Also displayed were Indian beadwork and steel arrowheads.

"The irony is that those were heavily influenced by Europeans. The beads were made in Czechoslovakia. The European steel arrow points were better than stone because you can keep a sharper edge on them. Copper pots were better than clay which broke easily. Cloth was more adaptable as clothing than buckskin.

"The Indians wanted these items from the Europeans and, of course, the Europeans wanted furs so the Indians became heavily involved in a trading economy."

A French nobleman visited this area in the 1790s and later wrote about people on the frontier.

"He said that in English and German families, the scheme of the day was that they would get up and the man of the house would dictate what was to be done that day.

"In the French household the husband and wife would get up early, if only to discuss getting up early. Then there would be conversation as to what was to be done that day.

"They could never agree and, in frustration, the man would go out hunting and woman would go next door to drink chocolate. At noon they would get back together and resume conversation. If they could finally agree, something would get done. If they didn't he would go back out hunting and she drinking chocolate.

"When the Yankees first came here, they thought these people were terriby lazy. But there was no point in growing surpluses because there was no great market.

"They grew only what they needed. If they wanted to make money they were involved in the fur trade. Furs were more easily transported than wheat and oats.

"The whole French attitude of life was *joie de vivre* which is 'let's enjoy ourselves while we're living.' " The attitude and culture still remain.

"There are still people who speak a dialect of French akin to what was spoken here in the 1700s. They tell folk tales about werewolves, people being turned into dogs and wolves—things that date back to medieval France. There are still old songs although they are fast dying out."

He pointed out a crude chair from

the Francois Navarre house made in the 1790s. The same house might have fine silver, he noted. In the mid-1790s there was a silversmith named Israel Ruland in business on the River Raisin who produced silver for Francois Navarre.

An 1810 wall map of Monroe county shows the French land claims—long skinny strips of land about 700 feet wide and one-and-a-half miles deep.

"These French land claims still are the major property boundaries for much of Monroe county. They run askew over the square Yankee townships. The French system dates back to medieval France."

Many French names on a 1788 petition to establish a parish church and on the 1810 map are still found in the phone book, he noted, especially south of Monroe in Erie township.

There also were upstate New Yorkers and Germans in the county. In the 1800s Monroe was divided up into church communities. There was one church for French Catholics, one for Irish Catholics, another for German Catholics. The Lutherans had one for High Dutch, another for Low Dutch.

A Monroe Dentist, Dr. A.M. Long invented a machine to dispense nitrous oxide (laughing gas) to put people out for painless dentistry. The machine is part of a dental office display. Along side is an 1890s clothing store.

A couple of mannikins are decked out in dresses given by our own Professor Elizabeth Dusseau who once wore them to U-M sorority "dress-up parties. (She is a WCHS director and former treasurer who grew up in Monroe.)

Early in the War of 1812, Michigan Territory was surrendered to the British and Indians without a shot fired, Au noted.

"It was very important to the Americans to regain control of the area. In January 1813 an army of more than 1,000 Kentuckians was camped near Toledo. The British had an outpost on the River Raisin, then a settlement of 1,300.

"On January 18, 1813, 667 Kentuckians aided by 100 local Frenchmen pushed out about 75 British militiamen and 200 Indians. They won the first battle and brought reinforcements.

"Four days later in the early morning darkness of January 22, a force of 1,500 British led by Colonel Henry Proctor from Fort Malden surprised 934 Kentuckians on the River Raisin."

In the battle the British had six cannon, at least three of them mounted on sleds much as one in the museum. It was one of very few battles where sled-mounted artillery was ever used, he said.

In the corner was a French home of Captain Jean Baptiste Couture who was killed in the battle. In the display, Couture is sitting with a man in full military garb, dubbed by museum staff, Captain Nathaniel G.S. Hart, a brother-in-law of Henry Clay. Hart was killed next day in the massacre.

Bullets found on the battlefield, a musket carried by a Frenchman, a letter written after the battle, a London cartoon depicting the capture of Winchester and a portrait of General James Winchester are shown.

HOW FAR CAN YOU GO ON A JUG OF CIDER?

An 1810 wall map of Monroe County shows the French land claims—long skinny strips of land about 700 feet wide and one-and-a-half miles deep.

"They knew how wide to make them because they wanted to be near their neighbors but the problem was how far back from the river do you go," Dennis Au said.

"According to Monroe County folklore, the Frenchman and surveyor would start at the river bank with a jug of hard cider or corn liquor and start walking back. Wherever they fell, the claim ended."

In the latter 19th and early 20th centuries, Monroe was a resort community. People came to the beaches. Hunters would hire a Frenchman with a punt boat to take them into the swamps. With a lon-n-n-n-g barrelled punt gun they could mow down entire flocks of ducks and geese. That kind of hunting has long since been banned, Au said.

A post card collection attests to Monroe's role as a tourist stop.

The museum has 19th and early 20th century household displays including an early washing machine made in Monroe, a pianoforte shipped across Lake Erie in the 1830s and a modest lady's bootjack so she could take off her boots without exposing much ankle.

George Armstrong Custer, born December 5, 1839, in New Rumley, Ohio, came to Monroe in the 1840s to attend Monroe's fine schools. He lived with a half-sister. His parents eventually followed.

The museum has a considerable collection of Custer items, much of it on loan from the Custer family. A free folder maps 15 local sites with Custer family connections. The Monroe County Library also has a 35,000-plus item Custer collection which is open to the public.

Children are amused to see Custer's baby dress. They also have a Custer family Bible dating back to the 1780s and have posted a family tree.

After graduating from school in Monroe Custer taught school a little while before receiving appointment to West Point. He graduated in 1861 at the bottom of his class.

However, class rankings at West Point are a combination of academics and demerits. We have a copy of his demerits—reporting with a button unbuttoned or a little late. To quote him once, he said my demerits, while numerous, were all minor infractions.

Another reason he was at the bottom was that half the class resigned to go south that year. Upon graduation there was only one place to go—into service. He went into the cavalry.

Early in the Civil War when General McLellan invaded Virginia, he needed someone to cross the Chickahominy River to scout out the Confederates.

"Custer, a young lieutenant, thought that a great thing to do. He gathered up some local boys from Monroe in the 4th Michigan Infantry, went across the river and came back with an important report.

"General McLellan liked him and put him on his staff as staff captain. That was the beginning of General Custer's rise in the military.

A sword captured by Custer, his canteen, a bowie knife captured by his men in the 4th Michigan and the 4th Michigan flag are displayed.

"During the war he would often come back to Monroe. He fell in love with a woman who lived where the museum is now, Elizabeth Bacon."

The Judge Bacon house was moved to 703 Cass Street in 1911 when the former post office was built that now houses the museum at 126 South Monroe Street.

Quite a romance developed between Custer and "Libbie" Bacon. One of the light golden brown locks of his hair that he sent her is displayed along with their wedding invitation and calling cards for the wedding.

"As brigadier general, Custer carried his own flag. It was on display

along with his sword and sword belt, binoculars, and a copy of *Harper's Weekly,* a Civil War version of *Newsweek*, with his picture on the cover.

"The height of Custer's command came right after he rose to the rank of brigadier general. He was put in command of a Michigan cavalry brigade at Gettysburg.

"On the climactic third day when the Confederates mounted a huge massed assault, the plan was that while General Pickett was mounting a frontal assault against the Union Army, the Confederate cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart was to go around and attack the rear of Union lines.

"But Stuart ran into Custer and the Michigan cavalry east of Gettysburg who defeated him. It was a major part of the battle of Gettysburg.

"Custer was prominent from that point on in the Army of the Potomac. He was General Sheridan's right hand man, was important in the Shenandoah campaign and at the end of the war in the Appomattox campaign after the Battle of the Wilderness and in the siege before Petersburg.

"The day before the surrender at Appomattox Custer captured a Conferate supply train. That loss was very important in General Lee's decision to give up.

"Custer was a brevet brigadier general (temporary battlefield commission) but once you receive the rank you keep the title even though after the war he was reduced to Lieutenant Colonel. He was sent to Texas first. Mrs. Custer always followed him wherever he went.

"They were fond of pets and kept a pack of dogs. He also had a pet pelican.

"He was a sports hunter. On display are a dog calling horn, mounted elk and deer heads he shot and mounted, his desk, part of his library, his buckskins, gun rack, shot gun, target rifle, tent and buffalo robe coat.

"You don't think of him as a religious person but there were a lot of religious books in his library. He didn't believe in drinking, although he did swear.

"People remember Custer for June of 1876 when he was at the Little Big Horn. It was a local tragedy because not only was Custer killed but also his two brothers, brother-in-law, nephew and another Monroe man, who were with him.

"In fact there was a memorial service held in Monroe in August 1876 when all the widows returned home. In 1976 we thought the most appropriate thing we could do to commemorate the battle was to hold a memorial service on the centennial of that memorial service.

President Taft was present for the unveiling of the statue of Custer erected in Monroe in 1910. At Mrs. Custer's insistence, it depicts Custer at the Battle of Gettysburg which she felt was the height of his career.

(The convention of the day was to raise one of the horse's legs if the rider had been wounded in battle and two if he had been killed. Sculptor Edward Potter chose not to since the statue depicts Custer 13 years before his death. The statue is officially titled, "Sighting the Enemy.")

CUSTER MAPPED REBS FROM BALLOON

Custer made one of the first balloon ascensions during the Civil War. Being familiar with map making from West Point, he made a map of Confederate positions from the balloon. A copy of his map is on display at the Monroe museum.

In Au's opinion, Mrs. Custer deserves as much space as her husband. They had no children but they were a devoted couple.

"After he died, to support herself, she went on a lecture tour and wrote extensively. Some of her books on display, *Boots and Saddles, Tenting on the Plains, Following the Guidon* were among the best sellers of the time. Her school desk, her side saddle and portraits of her at age 10 and in 1921 were shown.

"She died in 1932 and was buried at West Point next to her husband.

"The museum obtained the stones marking where Custer and his brother Tom fell at the Little Big Horn when they were replaced some years ago.

"Many items are on loan courtesy of descendants of Custer's brother Nevin, in particular Colonels Brice and Charles Custer. Charles, a practical joker just like the Custers were during the Civil War, is still alive in New Mexico.

In response to questions about the "last stand," Au said Custer had come out on top in a similar situation once before. Also if he had waited, the Indians would have taken off and the object was to round up the Indians. He thought this was the only chance.

After coffee and cookies at the museum, the group boarded the bus and Au guided a tour of older Monroe homes and the battlefield site.

Past the Union Camp Paper Company factory, the company which owns most of the battlefield site, the bus pulled off by the river.

Au explained that the river name was from the French, *La Riviere Raisin* which means river of grapes. When Charlevoix first explored the area in the 1740s, he noted all the grape vines along it.

In January 1813, back by the present factory buildings were 75 British militia men, 1 cannon and about 200 Indians. At noon 667 Kentuckians formed up in battle formation and charged across the solidly frozen river with fixed bayonets.

They won the first battle with 13 killed and 54 wounded.

Several days later the Americans reinforced themselves. About 700 were camped behind a picket fence where the factory is and about 200 more were camped in an open field on the other side of the woods.

In the early morning darkness of January 22, British and Indians, 1,500 strong, surprised the Americans camped in the field. The Americans began to falter as Indians on horseback came around and flanked them.

The Americans attempted to reinforce them with another 200 men but they began a pell-mell retreat across the river. They ran into an Indian ambush.

Out of 400 who took off in retreat only 33 escaped, about 220 were killed and the rest captured including General Winchester.

Meanwhile, about 500 men were doggedly holding off the British in the area by the factory, fighting from behind a picket fence.

In fact, in the first British charge in the darkness, they started firing at what they thought were lines of Americans. After ten or twenty minutes when they were forced to retreat, they noticed they'd been shooting at the fence.

After the third frontal assault, the Indians and British returned from defeating the Americans on the other side of the river. They had American General Winchester as a prisoner.

Colonel Procter suggested that he surrender the remainder of his men. The men first refused but they finally got the British to agree that the wounded would be protected from the Indians.

The British commander quickly agreed and headed back to Detroit as fast as he could because William Henry Harrison was reported within five miles with another army of 900 men.

But when Harrison received word how badly the battle was going, he went the other way.

The American wounded were left in buildings at Monroe. The British promised to return for them next day with sleds.

Next morning the British guards that had been left disappeared and the Indians returned. The Indians who had suffered heavy casualties at the hands of the Kentuckians had no love for them.

In a cool, deliberate manner they went into the homes and gathered up anyone who could walk as personal prisoners. Sixty-five who could not walk were tomahawked, scalped and thrown into burning buildings. It was called the massacre of the River Raisin.

The battle was a monumental disaster for the Americans. Out of 934 soldiers, only 33 escaped, 280 were dead, the rest prisoners. It created such a fervor in Kentucky that from this time on, the battle cry in the northwest was "remember the Raisin."

In September 1813, a large army from Kentucky pushed the British and Indians deep into Canada and finally defeated them at the Battle of the Thames.

A few years ago when the telephone company was digging, cellars of some of those French homes where the wounded were massacred were uncovered under the sidewalk and parking lot by the Union Camp Paper Company factory.

"Monroe has continued to be an unusual community in southeast Michigan. When it was going strong in the 1830s it was dubbed by many Michiganians "the independent state of Monroe." Whenever Detroit would vote Whig, Monroe would vote Democrat. When Detroit would vote Democrat, Monroe would vote Whig."

After that the group toured the restored Norman Towers retirement home and lunched in the dining room. It was the former Hall of the Divine Child military school run by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM).

The mother house of the teaching order of Roman Catholic nuns, founded in Monroe County in the 1840s, is nearby. Norman Towers was built in 1914. It has been attractively converted into apartments.

The tour continued out North Custer Road to the Navarre-Anderson trading post and Monroe Museum's Country Store in a former brick schoolhouse.

The combination French home-trading post is clapboarded over. If a French log building was on the land any time at all, it had wood floors and clapboard siding, the guide said. They didn't live quite as crudely as the British did.

'ON YOU WOLVERINES' STARTED AT GETTYSBURG

An important part of the Battle of Gettysburg was when Custer and the Michigan Cavalry stopped the Confederate Cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart from attacking Union lines from the rear.

During the fighting, the battle cry was "come on you wolverines." That's where the U-M battle cry came from—Custer and the Michigan cavalry brigade, Au said.

A glassed over portion of exterior wall shows the French-style log construction and where bullets lodged in the wall in the War of 1812 and from Indian trade rifle shots.

Near the hamlet of Grape, Professor Dusseau's grandfather owned a mill, the building now coverted into a house.

LEE THREW IN TOWEL, CUSTER 'CAUGHT' IT

When General Robert E. Lee sent an officer with a surrender flag, it was a towel. The officer first met Custer who received it (and kept it). Custer sent word to General Grant that Lee was proposing a truce to draw up terms of surrender.

"Mrs. Custer later cut up part of the towel for souvenirs. Custer also received the table that General Grant wrote the surrender terms on.

"A piece of the surrender towel and the table, framed together, were on display. It was given to a local man for his work in erecting the equestrian statue of Custer in Monroe, now at the southwest corner of Monroe and Elm Avenues.

Beyond Grape she pointed out water filled limestone quarries from which her grandfather once had men hauling limestone to Ann Arbor for construction.

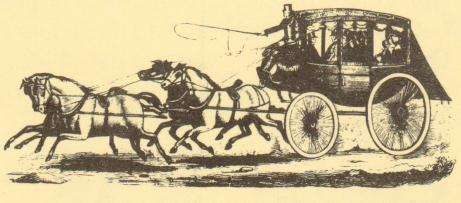
All the materials for making cement are available in this area, she noted. That is how we happen to have the Dundee Cement plant. (The tall smokestack of the cement plant is visible on a clear day from south upper windows of the U-M Graduate Library.)

She pointed out the Ida West Road up which Toledo-Flint stage-coaches came and turned west to the former Seitz Tavern where her grandmother was born.

The large brick house, now a private home, bears a State of Michigan historic marker on the corner of the house. It was built in 1856 by Jonathan Peter Seitz, Professor Dusseau's great-grandfather.

Beyond there, North Custer Road becomes Plank Road into Milan.

"The Plank Road is so called," she explained, "because in those days country roads completely lost their bottoms in the spring thaw and transportation was impossible so logs or planks were laid in the road to keep them passable."



GANDY DANCER, LYNDON TOWNSHIP GIVEN CERTIFICATES BY WCHS

WCHS anniversary certificates were presented to the Gandy Dancer Restaurant on the centennial of its building, the former Michigan Central Railroad depot, in Ann Arbor on June 7 and to Lyndon Township board on July 15 in honor of the township's sesquicentennial.

President Galen Wilson presented the former, Alice Ziegler the latter.

The hand lettered certificates, framed if desired, are available free of charge to organizations and institutions celebrating milestone anniversaries. If you know of a prospective recipient let us know.

MEETING DATES SET

The October meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 23, place and program to be announced.

Other meetings are planned Thursday, November 13; Sunday, March 8; Thursday, April 23; and Thursday, May 21. Also planned are a December meeting and the annual tour Saturday, June 13, 1987.

JUDGE'S SLIDE TOUR SHOWS THAT

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE NO GOLDEN ARCHES

Once upon a time Washtenaw Avenue was a gravel road with no golden arches, cows "mowed" the Normal College lawn in Ypsilanti and in Ann Arbor the U-M Medical Center was just a big ravine running down to the river.

Gentlemen dressed in bowler or derby hats and had their own personal mug at the shaving parlor. Young ladies loved to waltz on the spring floor at the Lake House in Whitmore Lake on a summers eve.

Circuit Judge Ross W. Campbell transported the May WCHS audience back to earlier days in the county with a nostalgic slide show of old pictures. Judge Campbell's forebears were part of the history of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County because they arrived in 1826, shortly after county government was organized.

An 1835 map of Michigan showed that only south of Bay City was the state laid out in square counties. The rest of the lower peninsula was labeled Michillimackinac and the Upper, Chipeway. Toll roads were listed in a column with tolls given in pounds and shillings.

The first Court House was built in the 1830s for $5,350. "I imagine the commissioners swooned when they got the price," he said. In a winter courthouse scene cordwood was stacked beside the building for fuel.

In 1877 construction began on what is remembered today as the "old" courthouse. Looking west the Whitney Theater and Hotel was across Main Street. A maypole device pictured, called a spider, was a primitive derrick for raising logs and beams.

In a July 4 scene on the courthouse lawn sometime in the 1890s from North Main and Huron one could see the Cook House (now Ann Arbor Inn) and at far upper left the sign, A.P. Mills. That was his grandfather's tailor shop.

Somewhere in Ann Arbor William Jennings Bryan is pictured campaigning for the presidency in front of a building with square ionic columns. He doesn't known where it was.

Out at Dixboro 1914 pictures showed that the Dixboro Store, Methodist Church, and Scout Cabin haven't changed much. He noted that Loren Campbell, recently retired probate judge served as pastor of the Dixboro Church when he was in law school.

Michigan Historical Collections

DR. CHASE'S BUILDING

Dr. Chase's Steam Printing House, still standing at Main and Miller in Ann Arbor.

An 1898 picture showed the log cabin erected on the fairgrounds at Burns Park. A white-haired gentleman sitting by the fire place is Alpha Washtenaw Bryan, the first American child born in the county (in 1824).

An 1860 view showed Ypsi's large hotel, the Hawkins House at Congress (Michigan Avenue) and Washington. The building still stands.

Indians used to come through Ypsilanti over the old Chicago Road on their way to Fort Malden to receive their annual treaty money from the British for their services during the War of 1812.

One time they built a big bonfire in the middle of the street near the Hawkins House and terrorized people demanding food and wiskey. Eventually they moved on to the relief of the Ypsilantians.

The Seminary, or early high school in Ypsilanti helped establish Ypsi's reputation for education and helped get the Normal College (now EMU) established there.

An 1870 scene of the college campus showed cows grazing in lieu of lawn mowers. An early view of Cleary College showed it on Congress or Michigan Avenue.

A later view of Ypsi's main street shows it brick with a trolley. The wide street, he noted was not for six lanes of traffic but was so farmers could come into town on Saturday morning with horses and park on the diagonal. Then when they wanted to go home, they could make a big "u" turn and head out.

A coachman in top hat and frock coat posed in front of C.L. Yost's livery stable in Ypsi.

In the shaving parlor at 7 North Huron, apparently the canary cage had been covered with shaving towels to protect it from the photographer's flash powder. Customer's mugs were on the wall. It was warmed with a wood stove and lighted by a kerosene or gasoline lantern.

At Michigan Avenue and Carpenter Road was Roberts Tavern, the Holiday Inn of its time. There were taverns like this about every ten miles along stagecoach routes. You could only make about 30 miles a day in good weather.

"After the Erie Canal opened up in 1825, most settlers came to Michigan over the canal on flat boats, then by boat to Detroit.

"In Detroit they would buy a span of oxen, wagon, chickens, barrel of flour, axe and seed. If there was any money left they might buy a pair of hinges so they could have a door on their cabin rather than just nail up a blanket.

"They would often head out over the Old Chicago Road (Michigan Avenue) through Saline or the Territorial Road to the north (roughly I-94) to find and settle land.

The hotel and *Milan Leader* newspaper office were in one Milan scene, and people in working costume around a turn-of-the-century family cider mill in another.

A log cabin built by Johan Spathelf in Freedom township in 1848 had a window right next to the door. He sus-

pects glass was rather precious and served two purposes—light and to see who was at the door.

A Manchester street scene shows an early bridge over the Raisin River with double railings, one to protect pedestrians from falling in the mill-race, the other to protect them from being spattered by horses.

The mill still stands there and was the nucleus of the community. The original photo was made by Photographer John Haarer on an 8 by 10 glass negative.

A later view, probably 1892, shows the 1881 steel bridge, better planked with a different railing. There is a cement trough for watering horses and an arc light over the street.

An early picture of the Chelsea Hotel shows a dirt street and gas light in front, no motor vehicles. Later known as the Sylvan Hotel, it burned last winter.

Construction in 1901 of the present 14th District Court Building in Chelsea was shown. It was built by Frank Glazier who had a colorful and tragic career, Judge Campbell noted. It was later known as the Chelsea State Bank.

Glazier built up the stove company in Chelsea that manufactured cast iron stoves and sold them all over the United States and South America.

He organized the bank, became state treasurer and was going to run for governor. He deposited some state money in his own bank and profited from it. He was prosecuted and sent to prison. He later committed suicide.

But the people of Chelsea looked upon him as a great benefactor and kindly man. They believe it was a "bum rap" caused by politics.

It was service of Red Cross nurses such as the Chelsea contingent that brought about woman suffrage, an idea whose time had come, he said.

A lady in a ruffled gown with head demurely bowed sat at one of the bentwood tables and chairs in Burkhart's ice cream parlor in Chelsea and nearby stood young men in high collars with heavily pomaded hair.

The railroad reached Ypsilanti in 1838 and didn't get to Dexter until three years later. An 1838 ad advertised a daily line of mail stages to Ann Arbor and Dexter and back to connect with the railroad at Ypsi.

When the railroad reached Dexter, farmers in northern Washtenaw and southern Livingston county would drive flocks of sheep and cattle to town to sell to commission merchants who would put them on the train to Detroit.

"About noon the farmers would end up with a pocketful of cash in the metropolis of Dexter and didn't want to go home yet. Dexter ended up with 13 saloons." He showed a picture of Elsasser's Saloon.

Dexter was named for Judge Samuel Dexter. As postmaster in the early days it took him three days to ride to Detroit and back with the mail.

When about 40 years old, tragically his wife died. He went east to recuperate and recover. He apparently did so rather rapidly because 30 days later he was back in Dexter with a new wife. "You can imagine what the ladies of Dexter had to say about that."

Between 1841 and '43 Judge Dexter built the mansion he called Gordon Hall for his mother's maiden name. From the front porch he had a panoramic view of the village he had platted and sold. His first county job would be the equivalent now of district judge. He was also interested in the local newspaper in Ann Arbor.

His granddaughter donated or sold Gordon Hall to the University of Michigan. U-M President Ruthven lived there for a time, before it was divided into four apartments and rented out by U-M.

Judge Dexter's granddaughter also inherited a beautiful oil painting of the Judge which she left to the Washtenaw County Historical Society and arrangements were made to hang it in the Courthouse. It now hangs in Judge Campbell's jury room.

Also shown were:

The first rubber tired buggy in Dexter, 1903.

The Stevens House at Whitmore Lake was where Polly's Market is now when the lake was a popular resort reached by train. The other hotel there, the Lake House, had a second floor dance floor set on springs. A spry old gentleman at the Dexter Golden Age club told Judge Campbell that young people today don't really know what dancing is until they have danced a Strauss waltz in unison with 50 other couples on a spring floor.

An 1890 birdseye view of Ann Arbor. U-M occupied only one square. A few blocks west of the Courthouse and a few blocks south of Hill Street was open country.

An 1870 view of Main Street, Ann Arbor, with gas lights, wooden sidewalks and hitching posts along the side instead of parking meters. All the buildings except the Muncipal Court Building are standing.

There was a board in the middle of the street. Someone said it was used to pry a mired wagon wheel out of the mud and it was your civic duty to leave it for the next fellow.

Dr. Chase's Steam Printing House at Miller and Main. Dr. Chase started as a peddler who sold household gadgets and recipes for medicines and salves door to door.

"He decided to become a physician and went to medical school for four months in Ohio. He wrote and published a collection of his recipes for man and beast. It went through many editions.

"At the start of summer vacation he gave copies to U-M students to take home and sell for $1 a copy."

A tavern across from the Farmer's and Mechanics Bank (now First of America). He speculated that a man in a stovepipe hat with a carpet bag might be a drummer or salesman and a man with a stiff leg might be a Civil War veteran with a wooden leg.

Jacob Haller's jewelry store. "Upstairs out of the windows peeking you can see little Hallers," he noted. Mr. Haller appeared to be wearing a sailor hat.

A Zion Church audience explained that its a German custom for tradesmen and craftsmen to daily fold a sheet of newspaper into a hat to keep hair out of the baked goods or clockworks or whatever.

Surgery amphitheater of U-M School of Homeopathic Medicine, 1893. Surgeons were wearing rubber aprons but no rubber gloves. The state constitution of 1908 required the U-M to have a school of homeopathic medicine or at least one professor, Judge Campbell said.

Coach Fielding H. Yost buying a liberty bond in 1917 from Hudson Morton and his brother, Daniel, of Boy Scout Troop 4.

ROLL OF NEW MEMBERS

WCHS welcomes the following members who have joined since last spring (of Ann Arbor unless otherwise noted):

Commercial:

Domino's Pizza, Inc., Hillary Handwerger
Schlenker Hardware Co., Martin Schlenker

Regular and Senior:

Benford, Harry & Betty
Bradley, Carol E.
Brougher, Joanne M.
Callard, Carole C.
Chapman, Linda, of Dexter
Feldkamp, Margaret C. of Saline
Fish, Beverly, of Ypsilanti
Foster, Phyllis
Frey, James
Gibb, Pamela
Gribble, Lauretta M.
Hawke, Laura Biddle
Jackson, Ralph
Joiner, Judge & Mrs. Charles W.
Kaczmarek, Jeanette M.
Kehl, Grace E.
Kirkendall, Judge & Mrs. John N., of Ypsilanti
Knapp, Edith M., of Ypsilanti
Knight, Myron C. and Mary Jo
Lowe, Bette S.
Milliman, Doris, of Ypsilanti
Nelson, Steven (student)
Sayer, Edward E.
Smith, Lois K.
Steneck, Margaret & Nicholas
Talburtt, Margaret A.
Vogel, Elvira, of Manchester
Watson, Lois Elaine

5,450 KNAPP'S POINTS NEEDED FOR SCREEN

WCHS has a 305 point start on its goal of 5,450 points from Bill Knapp's Restaurants to earn a screen to show slides and movies on at our meetings.

All you have to do if you eat there is ask for your points when you pay your bill. Save the yellow point slips and bring or send them to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. You or your friends can get points from any Knapp's Restaurant.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

2:30 P.M. SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1986

Domino's Car Barn
3815 Plaza Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan
(Off Ellsworth, near Airport)

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS INVOLVE: BABY DRESSES BLACKSMITHING, PIG ROAST, MORE

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday, Crippen Building at Methodist Home. Open house was held at the depot which is being restored in late June. In spite of rain, a gala dedication of a state historic marker at the Glazier Recreation Building (now Chelsea Standard offices) was held August 2.

Dexter Society: Museum, 3443 Inverness, open 1-4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and by special appointment. (Call 426-2519.) Meet 7:30 p.m. first Thursday.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Monday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. Organizational meeting September 15.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday, Hack House, 775 County Street. Art Stephan, president of the Ann Arbor Silent Film Society, will present a film show.

Northfield Society: Fall membership meeting, Thursday, October 9, St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield Church Road at Sutton, beginning with potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. After 7 p.m. business meeting, Judge Ross Campbell will show slides on the early history of Whitmore Lake at 7:30.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday, township hall, South State and Ellsworth Roads. The Society has received loan of a Civil War uniform of a Pittsfield soldier named Webb, one of three sons who served.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. fourth Thursday at former Salem Congregational Church on Dickerson Street in Salem village.

Sharon Webber, a descendant of the Ryder family, will speak September 25. The old Ryder home near the town hall is now owned by the township which is considering demolishing it. The Society would like to get it on the register of historic places.

Webster Society: A blacksmithing demonstration in the blacksmith shop the Society is restoring is expected to highlight the fall festival Saturday, October 4. It is sponsored jointly with Webster United Church of Christ.

Other features are arts and pioneer crafts demonstrations, antique cars and farm equipment, antique dolls and toys, musical entertainment, rummage sale, bake sale, country store, luncheon 11-2 and a pig roast dinner 5-7:30.

Also planned are an old-fashioned children's carnival with games, contests and prizes, petting zoo, hayrides and a raffle drawing. Dinner tickets are $6, children's, $3. Raffle prizes are a May Mast original primitive painting, hand forged fire-place tools and dinner for two at Heritage Inn.

Ypsilanti Society: Museum, 220 North Huron, open 2-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Annual meeting 3-5 p.m. Sunday, September 21st, at the museum.

Exhibits of baby dresses through September, prepared by Betty Tunnicliffe. Button exhibit planned in October.

'WHAT IS IT?' GAME AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What Is It?" game for children to schools.

It is available for classes subject to time and volunteer availability. For information call Patricia Austin, 663-5281.

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